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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLAYTON-LE-MOORS.

The Annual Report

of

DR. TATTERSALL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Forty second

1918.

To the Chairman and Members

of the

Urban District Council

of

Clayton-le-Moors.

Estimated population for Birth rate 9342

Estimated population for Death rate. 8338

During the year 1918, the number of Births registered in Clayton-le-Moors is 135 Males 77 Females 58- Four Births were illegitimate- In the previous year 137 Births were registered.

The Annual Birth rate is estimated 14.4 per thousand of the population, as compared with 15.3 in the previous year.
The number of deaths of civilians, from all causes, during the year is 125- Males 55 Females 70
The Annual Death rate is estimated 14.9 per thousand of the population. In the previous year the death rate is 13 per thousand.

The following tabular statement indicates the mortality and causes:-

Enteric Fever	3	Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria & Croup.	1	Influenza.	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	Tuberc. Meningitis.	2
Other Tuberc.dis.	3	Cancer Malig.Dis.	11
Meningitis.	1	Organic Heart Dis.	7
Bronchitis.	9	Pneumonia-all Forms	17
Diarrhoea under 2yrs.	1	Nephritis-Brights Dis.	1
Puerperal Fever.	1	Congenit. Debility.	10
Violence not suicide	3	Suicide.	1
Other defined dis.	29	Causes unknown	1
	60		65

Total 125.

Special Causes included in the above
Polio-myelitis ... 1

The mortality from the chief zymotic diseases is 6, being 0.71 and from Tuberculosis 14 or 1.6 per thousand of the population. Of the latter 9 were Pulmonary 1.07 per thousand, an increase of the previous year.
Cancer contibutes 11 to the mortality, an increase of 4 of the year previous.

Organic Heart Disease 7: illnesses from Bronchitis and Pneumonia contribute 26 to the mortality.

Influenza resulted in 14 deaths, compared with 2 in the previous year.

Infant Mortality

Nineteen deaths of infants under one year are registered, as compared with fourteen of the year previous; this indicates an increase of nearly forty per thousand of children born.
In 1917 the mortality was 102 and in 1918 was 140 per thousand Births. From 1916 the ratios are 83-102- 140.
The influenza epidemic was contributory and whether war effects and the absence of the male population had anything to do with domestic and family negligence, one can only surmise. Indifferent nursing and attention, Maternity negligence, perhaps also Food difficulties may have contributed somewhat to infant mortality.

Health Visiting

Mrs. Gray, the Health Visitor, reports having made 1,150 visits to infants and, to children from 1 to 5 years of age 1668 visits. Expectant mothers visited were 135. We must expect that some good will accrue in this category of work and, more perhaps if notice was taken of the instructions given both as regards nursing, feeding, and attention to Maternity.

The necessity to follow work for livelihood,may detract somewhat from successful results, in Maternity and Child Welfare.

Disinfection of Premises

For information relative to the disinfection of premises after illness and procedure, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report,appended.

Infectious Diseases Notified.

The number of infectious Diseases Notified during the year 1918 is 134 and the number of deaths occurring from these is 13.

	cases	Deaths
Diphtheria.	3	1
Whooping Cough	*	1
Enteric Fever	3	3
Scarlet Fever.	1	
Measles.	105	
Erysipelas	1	
Polio-Myelitis	1	1
Ophthalmic Nat-neo ...	2	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ...	10	4
Other Tuberc. Diseases. ...	8	3
*	134	13

* Not Notifiable.

Deaths 9 per cent of Notified Cases.

Measles.

The prevalence of the illness of Measles occurred during the summer of 1918, when upwards of one hundred cases were notified. Fortunately there was no mortality from the epidemic, so we must conclude, that the cases were of a mild nature, and that the measures adopted were successful.

Mr. Dixon, the Sanitary Inspector, reports upon the disinfection of 73 rooms, at the houses where measles had occurred. Also, with regard to other infectious illnesses, "printed and verbal instructions were given to persons in charge of patients, disinfectant supplied, to prevent the spread of the illness".

Inspection and visits to cases of Measles made by Mrs. Gray, the Health Visitor, were 260; a very satisfactory record of work in this department.

For a short period the schools were closed and disinfected.

General Health of the People and Food Supply.

There is no doubt that the general health of the people and of children has been more or less affected, by the accidents and effects, contingent upon the war- mentally as well as physically- this however was to be expected. Money however was seemingly plentiful and, much pleasure indulged in to ameliorate and counteract any suffering.

Food though was not plentiful and economy had to be exercised, frozen meat was not appreciated and prices were inflated. Milk trouble also evolved from the state of affairs, supply diminished, cattle and their food was scarce, and prices of milk went up. The situation was relieved by tinned and other forms of milk imported, the trouble however continued to the detriment of the feeding of young children and invalids. There has been a general tendency to profiteer in all grades of food business and, people have gone short or without proper food rather than suffer imposition. Shortage of Butter, Margarine, Sugar, Jams, also was evident, and Bacon, Pork, Cheese were of inferior quality. Fish appeared to be in demand at most times, the price however was of a profiteering character, but people preferred it to frozen meat. Vegetables were fairly well supplied, potatoes showed well in quantity and quality, and no doubt many lived on potatoes with Bacon, or Ham when it could be got.

As there is nothing so important as good and nutritious food for enabling ~~(food)~~ the body to withstand the inroads of disease, it is to be admitted that during the incidents of war, disease and mortality are liable to increase among the civil population.

House Accomodation.

According to the Sanitary inspector's report, there appears insufficiency of houses, and a stopage in building. No mention is made however ~~to made~~ of any overcrowding. The number of houses is 2065 and with a population of 9000 is equal to slightly over four persons per house. Notwithstanding, building speculation would be desirable for an increase of house accomodation, if possible by local authority.

Particulars of house inspection, trades, and workplaces, together with nuisances found or complained of are dealt with in the Inspector's (Nuisance) report.

Farms, Dairies and Cowsheds.

Relating to Farms, Dairies and Cowsheds; there are no evidences of uncleanliness or inattention, but notices were served to put all in good order by limewash and the removal of nuisances when found". This portion of Sanitary work is important, for on the supply of un-contaminated milk, depend to a great degree, the lessened mortality of infants and children.

In my opinion there is not that care taken, in the milking, and in transit, that there might be; and even after delivery most people are careless in preventing contamination. Milk is a very easily decomposed food, when subject to impure atmosphere and dirt, and gives rise to various diseases to the bowels and fevers. All milk should be strained or filtered, through wet muslin folds to remove the contamination, of dust, scaly deposits, and cow hairs and particles of dung.

General Aspect of the town.

Upon inspection and survey, the cleanly appearance of the roads and principal streets is delightful. Also the back and smaller streets are fairly satisfactory. It is imperative for good health that all householders should give attention, to the cleanliness of premises and avoid the accumulation of unnecessary rubbish in back yards. Also where dogs and other animals are kept there should be constant supervision. The origin of many illnesses may be traced to filth and during the warmer months free flushting and swilling of back premises should be had recourse to.

Health and the Park.

The great benefit as a local health resort, afforded by the neat well kept little Park ought to be taken advantage of by the inhabitants; particularly invalids. The seating accomodation for invalids might be improved and increased by deck or hammock-chairs, hired at a small charge by those desiring the same. Patients recovering from illnesses will find them more comfortable and be able to move to places of benefit for air and sunshine as well as shade. The immense benefit from fresh air and sunshine cannot be too highly valued in the recovery from ilness, and in the maintenence of good health. A few hours during the summer months in the Park would afford a pleasant change for the worker, who is confined in close workplaces or houses with stifling surroundings.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

In the near future, following in the course of action of other centres the inaugtration of some method for the welfare of infants and also maternity treatment will not doubt occupy your attention. At present satisfactory work is being done by the Health Visitor in regard to infants and the visitation of mothers.

Summary of Statistics.

Per thousand of population.

	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Epidemic Death rate.	Phthisis Death rate.	rate of Deaths under 1 yr. to 1000 Births.
1918. ...	14.4	14.9	0.71	1,97	140
1917	15.5	15.0	0.62	0.50	192
Mean of 10 years 1908- 1917.	21.9	14.5	1.54	0.73	123
Increase or Decrease in 1918 on the previous year.	0.9	1.9	0.09	0.57	53
Ten years average.	7.5	0.4	0.63	0.74	12.